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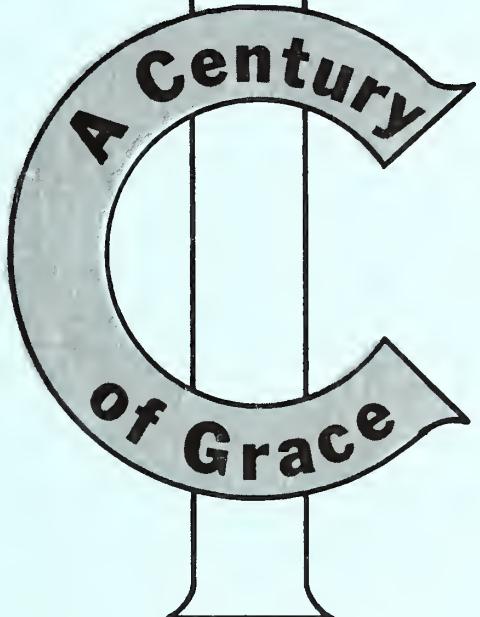
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GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fort Wayne,  
Indiana

1883

1983



## *God's Gift To Grace Church*

*God's Grace is a gift, no money can buy,  
It is free for the taking, from our Father on high,  
More precious than jewels, in the Bible we're told,  
Far greater than a treasure of silver and gold.*

*For a century of years, Grace Church did survive,  
And by God's Grace she is still alive.  
Through stormy seas and calm, God always was near,  
To guide and to steer her to this memorable year.*

*So let us thank God in the Heavens above,  
For His Amazing Grace and undying Love.  
For without these, my friends, I greatly fear,  
We wouldn't be celebrating this Centennial Year.*

*Louise Ritchie*

## MY CHURCH

A red, brick building,  
Standing firm against all harm,  
Haven in the storm.

A band of people,  
Walking on the path with me,  
Shores up my journey.

A philosophy,  
Sustaining me in my search;  
All this is my church.

*Isabelle Masel*

*This booklet is dedicated to the faithful, devoted Christian members of Grace Church, present and past, throughout our “Century of Grace”.*

# We Are the Church

Words and Music by  
Richard Avery and Donald Marsh

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WAYNE H. BRASS, *pastor*

**G**randparents love to show and tell about their grandchildren. Showing and telling about grandchildren allows our generation to identify its connection with the generations that follow.

WATSON H. BRASS, pastor

This Centennial booklet is Grace Church's showing and telling about her grandparents and grandchildren in the faith. I want you to know your church family history — of Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Joseph and Mary, Jesus, Paul, Luther Zwingli and Calvin; our mother church, St. John's; our first home, the Jewish Synagogue; our first pastor, J. J. Bacher; and our names — Grace Reformed, Grace Evangelical and Reformed, Grace United Church of Christ.

*I want you to know of our 1983 Centennial Celebration — our projects and programs. I want you to know of our questions for the second century:*

## *Will we change our name again?*

*Will we find new ways to do mission in our community?*

*Will we experience growth — in faith and numbers?*

*Will we be faithful to Jesus' gospel of love —*

*Will we allow God to use Grace Church — even to use her up, if that be His will?*

*I hope you will feel closer to our congregation and our Lord as you hear and see our story. I invite you to join in the prayer we prayed as part of our Centennial Service, Sunday, September 25, 1983.*

*Gracious God, we know our purpose. We remember our history. We anticipate the future. We ask you to let nothing separate us from one another. In conflict and in peace, in failure and fulfillment, in sorrow and in joy, we are brothers and sisters to one another, because you are our Father and Mother.*

*In the ages that have been, so have you.  
In the time that is now, so are you.  
In the day that is coming, so shall you be.  
In that promise,  
we take our peace in you. Amen.*

Wayne H. Bran



---

Pastor Wayne Brass Family: Benjamin, Renee, Erika and Baby Hillary

# *A Century of Grace . . . . . "Our Former Pastors"*



REVEREND T. J. BACHER  
1883-1888



REVEREND A. K. ZARTMAN  
1888-1916



REVEREND NEVIN H. SCHAAF  
1916-1922



REVEREND R. S. BEAVER  
1925-1931



REVEREND B.E. REEMSNYDER  
1931-1946



REVEREND F. J. LOWENBERGH  
1949-1956



REVEREND MARVIN DEERHAKE  
1963-1979



REVEREND EDWARD DREWS  
1956-1962

# A Century of Grace . . . . . "Our History"

- 1883** -January 9 - The Board of Home Missions of the Ohio Synod of the Reformed Church in the U.S. issued to the Rev. T.J. Bacher a call as missionary to Fort Wayne, Indiana in the interest of the English speaking people.  
 -April 1 - Rev. T.J. Bacher accepted the call and began his duties.  
 -April 8 - Rev. Bacher preached his introductory sermon in a rented former Jewish synagogue, then owned by the Universalist Church, located on SW corner of Wayne and Harrison Streets.  
 -May 13 - Pentecost - Fifty persons became the founding members of the newly organized church, naming the new congregation "The Grace Reformed Church of Fort Wayne, Indiana".  
 -June 11 - Decision made to purchase property at 316 East Washington Street. Cost \$4,000.
- 1884**-July 27-Dedication of 35'x56' chapel-lecture room structure built on Wash. St. lot. Cost \$3,105. Membership 99. Sunday School 66.
- 1888**-Rev. Bacher resigned and Rev. A.K. Zartman D.D. assumed the pastorate.
- 1889**-Rev. Zartman began editing a monthly news bulletin which became a valuable source of historical information for the 40 year coverage of events in the life of Grace Church while it was being published. A Parsonage was erected on lot east of chapel. Cost \$2,036.
- 1895**-April - A beautiful sanctuary built of brick and stone with stained glass windows was dedicated, following one year construction time. Cost \$15,000.
- 1912** -Building was redecorated and recarpeted, and a pipe organ was installed.
- 1916**-Having served as our pastor twenty-eight years Rev. Zartman resigned and young Rev. Nevin Schaaf accepted our call.  
 A new furnace and indoor plumbing was installed.
- 1918**-Membership stood at 235 while S.S. reported 268 enrollment.
- 1922**-Discussion of merger with Salem Reformed was dropped. The German language was the stumbling block.  
 Rev. Schaaf submitted his resignation and Rev. J. H. String began his ministry at Grace.
- 1923**-A kitchen and cistern were added and the 40th anniversary was observed.
- 1925**-Rev. String resigned and the congregation voted in favor of relocating to another section of the city where there might be greater opportunity for growth. Rev. R. S. Beaver accepted our call.
- 1926**-Easter - 57 new members were added to the roll, the largest group on the church records.  
 Lots at the corner of Lexington and Webster Streets were purchased. Cost \$7,900.
- 1927**-Ground-breaking services were held for the new church, the first church in the community to be built south of Rudisill Blvd. Cornerstone laying was on July 31.  
 Sunday School and worship services were held in Harrison Hill School during construction of new building.
- 1928**-February 25 - Dedication Sunday for our new building followed by a week of special services. Cost of building \$100,000.
- 1931**-Rev. B.E. Reemsnyder accepted call to fill pulpit after resignation of Rev. R.S. Beaver.
- 1932**-Average weekly attendance 366.
- 1933**-Golden Anniversary of church founding celebrated with services on October 8, 11 and 15, in honor of the special occasion.
- 1934**-Name changed to Grace Evangelical and Reformed Church after merger of the Reformed and Evangelical denominations.
- 1936**-Foreclosure proceedings forestalled during financial difficulties brought on by the depression years.
- 1938**-Burned original mortgage contract.
- 1943**-Membership reached 445.
- 1946**-Rev. J. Heistand accepted call upon retirement of Rev. B.E. Reemsnyder.
- 1947**-Excavation of space under sanctuary needed for class-rooms and social gatherings.
- 1949**-Purchased home at 213 North Seminole Circle for parsonage.  
 Rev. Heistand resigned to become Superintendent of Fort Wayne Children's Home and Rev. F.J. Lowenbergh accepted pastorate.
- 1952**-Renovation program began which included exterior and interior. A new pipe organ was installed, new carpeting laid, heating facilities replaced, and the chancel remodeled.
- 1954**-November 7 - Dedication of new facilities.
- 1956**-Rev. F.J. Lowenbergh tendered his resignation and Rev. Edward Drews was called to the pulpit.
- 1957**-Name changed to Grace United Church of Christ upon merger of the Congregational Christian Churches with the Evangelical and Reformed Churches.
- 1958**-75th Anniversary celebration included a pageant presentation. First woman elected to our consistory.  
 Hired first church office secretary.
- 1962**-Resignation of Rev. Edward Drews.  
 Ordination of son of our congregation, Robert Pike, into the U.C.C. ministry.
- 1963**-Rev. Marvin W. Deerhake accepted call to our pastorate.  
 First church library set up.
- 1967**-December 7 - Ground-breaking ceremony for new educational unit.
- 1968**-October 27 - Cornerstone laying for new unit.
- 1969**-May - Month long dedication services for new educational unit, with May 18 designated Dedication Sunday. Total cost \$450,000. September - First term of week-day nursery school began.
- 1973**-Gessinger Memorial Scholarship Fund established. 90th Anniversary celebration week included services, dinner and musical.
- 1976**-Ceiling lights were installed in room under sanctuary and space developed for nursery school playroom and youth lounge. Our Country's bi-centennial observed during worship and annual picnic in the park. Pew cushions provided by Women's Guild.
- 1978**-We burned the mortgage on the educational unit!
- 1979**-Rev. Wayne Brass accepted call to replace Rev. Deerhake who left for pastorate in Freelandville, Indiana.
- 1982**-Weekly picnics replaced Church School during the summer for the children, youth and young adults, while classes for older adults continued.  
 Laotian refugee family spends nine months here under sponsorship of Grace, Peace and Salem U.C.C. before relocating in California. Mural on west wall of upper mixing area dedicated.
- 1983**-Grace Centennial Celebration included the following events;  
 January 30 -Opening of centennial year celebration with the reading from consistory minutes dated January 1, 1883. Worship service included scripture and hymns in German and English.
- February 27 -Presentation of Centennial quilted banner made by members of church families.
- March -Centennial Creative Arts Projects month.  
 Entries were displayed during month of April.
- April 3, - Centennial Arbor Day planting following Easter Sunrise Service, and Centennial Easter worship service with Dr. Ralph Quellhorst, Conference Minister, speaker.
- May 15 - Centennial confirmands received into membership.
- June 5 - Centennial Worship and Picnic in Shoaff Park with youth and staff from Crossroad U.C.C. Children's Home which was also founded in 1883.  
 Program included worship service and music by the Day Star Band, picnic dinner, birthday cake, and games.
- July 3 - Dedication of Centennial float entered in Three Rivers Festival Parade on Saturday, July 9.
- August 14 - Celebrated 100 years of Christian Education through Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and week-day Nursery School, during worship service.
- August 20 -Centennial year annual old fashioned ice cream social
- September 23, 24, & 25 - Centennial Sept. Week End-Friday evening service of Praise and Thanksgiving-Combined choirs from Grace, Peace and Plymouth churches. Saturday afternoon - Weddings: Remembered and Renewed - Rev. W. Brass and Rev. R. Pike officiating. Sunday evening - Centennial dinner and presentation of pageant, "This Is Your Life, Grace Church". Sunday morning - Worship service with Rev. John Heistand and Rev. Marvin Deerhake guest speakers.

# *A Century of Grace . . . . . "A Century of Building"*

## A CENTURY OF BUILDING

A century of positive attitudes and actions gives Grace Church a history of noble building efforts designed to meet the problems of its present and future aspirations.

When scarcely a year old in 1884, a new congregation built a small chapel having neither bell nor steeple. But time came when the little chapel was not adequate for the growing group. Then came the task of planning and building a new church, which, when it was dedicated in 1895, was considered to be an outstanding church in the community. This edifice was located at 316 East Washington Blvd.

Grace Church prospered, but so did the surrounding community. The city business district had grown on all sides of the church causing the membership to decide to move to a more satisfactory location. Again God's people at Grace set to work planning the relocation and building of a new church, where there might be greater opportunity for growth and service. On Sunday morning, February 5, 1928, this beautiful house of worship was dedicated to the glory of God at its present location on Webster Street.

The weathering of the problems brought on by the Great Depression did not deter the spirit of Grace Church to go forward with the idea of adding more facilities for church school and other activities. The people of Grace launched out with faith and courage, and through sacrifice and careful planning, realized the splendid facility, which we now enjoy. The corner stone was laid October 27, 1968 and the building was dedicated May 18, 1969. This latest addition was carefully planned to include an adequate educational facility, a choir room, functional units for group meetings with easy access for the aged and physically handicapped, and comfortable air-conditioning for the entire building.

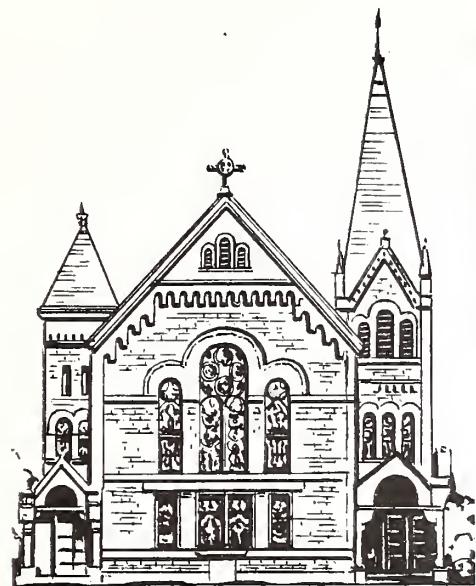
A combined service celebrating our 95th anniversary and the burning of the mortgage on the \$450,000. educational unit was held on Sunday, April 2, 1978, less than ten years following the laying of the cornerstone.

What makes a church worthy of its dedication? Surely not its monetary value or grandeur. The intent of those who build, give it worth. The true purpose of a church structure must be to serve the congregation; so that they may teach God's Word, reach out in mission and evangelism, unite in Christian fellowship and join together in worship.

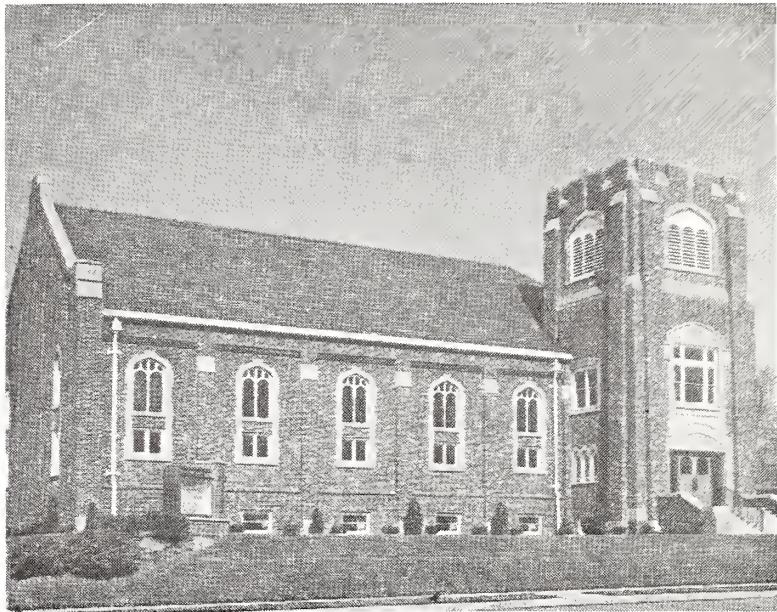
As we look to the future, we pray that we may use this building to carry on the work of God's Kingdom in such a way as to merit His blessing.

*Floyd Johnson*

# *A Century of Grace . . . . . “Our Church Buildings”*



GRACE REFORMED CHURCH  
316 East Washington Blvd.  
1895-1927



GRACE REFORMED  
1927-1934  
GRACE EVANGELICAL and REFORMED  
1934-1957  
GRACE UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST  
1957-1969



GRACE UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST  
4120 South Webster Street  
1969-1983

## *“Our UCC Symbol”*



# *A Century of Grace.....“Our Centennial Confirmands”*



BRIAN SCHNITKER, ANGELA HOLDERBAUM, LAURIE KNITTLE,  
PASTOR BRASS, ERIKA BRASS, CHRISTOPHER COLWELL

## *“Our Members from the East Washington Blvd. Church”*



Pictured left to right are:

Back row - CHARLES MASSEL, MILAN SELL, DELPHIA KERNEN, GLADYS KOONTZ, GLORIA HEBERMEHL,  
Front row - PAUL DURNELL, MARTHA WEDLER, AGNES GODFREY, MAE MARQUARDT, BETTY VANDERVORT.  
Not present - GRACE PRESTON, ADOLPH PENTZ.

# *A Century of Grace . . . . . “Our Worship”*



Names of ushers pictured: *Front row* - BROOKS BORNE, CHARLES MASER, DAVID DURNELL, *Second row* - DENNIS MALOTT, STOKLEY COLWELL, DONALD TROUT, CHARLES SHROYER, JAMES SCHNITKER, DENNIS DURNELL, *Third row*: MILTON ASCHLIMAN, WILLIAM HEBERMEHL, HOWARD FOX, HAROLD JOHNSON, *Fourth row* - MICHAEL BER-WERT, RALPH HANNIE, LARRY HOLDERBAUM, EUGENE MANN



## **Children during Children's Message**



## Acolytes

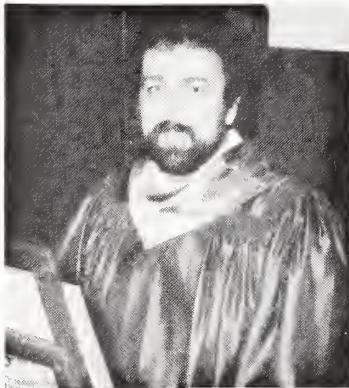
Names of Acolytes pictured: *First row* — ROMY GILBERT, DIANNE McCONNELL, SHELLEY COWAN, ERIC KNITTLE, LARRY GILBERT  
*Second row* — ANITA FISHER, LAURIE KNITTLE, AMANDA BORNE, MATTHEW MORGAN, AMY HOLDERBAUM  
*Third row* — AMY EVANS, LORI RIGBY, ERIKA BRASS, BRIAN SCHNITKER, ANGIE HOLDERBAUM, CHRIS COLWELL



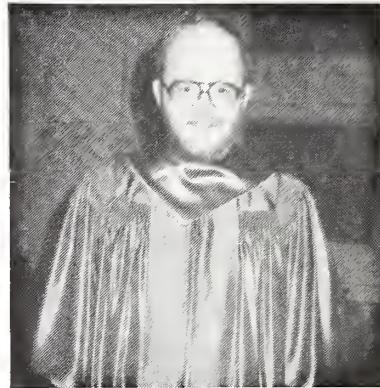
# *A Century of Grace . . . . . "Our Music"*



MARCEILLE SHELLEY  
*Organist, 1976-May, 1983*



DOUGLAS SPEAKMAN  
*Organist beginning June, 1983*



GREG OTIS  
*Director beginning Aug. 1983*



Our choir pictured left to right: *first row* MARCEILLE SHELLEY, *organist*, HELEN SMUTS, MARY MILLS, SUE CONNER, GLORIA HEBERMEHL, PHYLLIS LONG, IRENE SLATER, DONNA GILBERT, *director* 1982 until August 1983.

*Second row* — PHAROL PRINGLE, FLOYD JOHNSON, KENNETH KNITTLE, LARRY BENNETT, SANDRA STRIKER, RENEE BRASS.  
*Third row* — RUSSELL LONG, JAMES STEPHENS, GERALD GILBERT, THOMAS STEPHENS.

## MUSIC AT GRACE

Music has always played an important role in the corporate worship at Grace Church. The church on Washington Blvd. had a pipe organ donated in part by the Carnegie Foundation. Prior to this a piano and a pump organ were used for the singing of hymns.

Throughout her history Grace has had volunteer adult choirs. During the '40s, '50s and '60s children's choirs and youth choirs were added and on special occasions all choirs combined to sing praise to God.

We have had many faithful and dedicated organists and choir directors who lent their talent to the spiritual enrichment and development of our worship, and to the promotion of Christian service within the choirs. Early records refer to the director as "chorister" and "driller" and were paid one dollar per Sunday.

In 1947 Mrs. Jo Gerig became our choir director and was joined in 1950 by organist, Mrs. Lillian White. These two dedicated women served together many years and contributed greatly to the raising of the quality of music at our church. They honored us with their presence at our September Centennial Week End celebration.

We praise and thank God for our choir members, organists and directors who have brought us many beautiful anthems, contatas and other special music throughout our "Century of Grace".

# *A Century of Grace . . . . . "Our Christian Education"*



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION

First Row - ISABELLE MASEL, HELEN SMUTS

Second row - PATRICIA HOLDERBAUM, ARLENE KNITTLE

Third row - ELEANOR MISER, DOROTHY BORNE, CHARLES MASEL



ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERS



CHILDREN CHURCH SCHOOL MEMBERS  
AND THEIR TEACHERS

## GRACE CHURCH SCHOOL

After a small beginning one hundred years ago, Grace Church School boasted its peak enrollment at the time of our 75th Anniversary celebration. Then, following the trend of the times, it started a decline. We are unique in still having several adult classes, since many churches have classes only for children.

In 1979 the Church School Board was abolished and a Christian Education Commission was established, which has jurisdiction over all phases of education for the church.

Of great service to the community is the annual Vacation Church School. The last three years the students presented a musical at the close of the 5-day event for parents and friends. The curriculum was coordinated to each production. Average enrollment has been 50-75 children.

A highlight of 1976 was the celebration of our nation's bi-centennial which culminated in a picnic with a hugh birthday cake. The 200th birthday of the Sunday School was observed in 1980 and a skit was presented to commemorate the occasion. Several members were honored for 25 or more years of teaching.

An all-church "Worship in the Park" is an innovation of recent years, with worship services held in a park on Sunday in the summer, followed by a fellowship picnic dinner, program and games.

In 1982 summer Church School for children, youth and young adults was replaced by mid-week outdoor picnics and programs at the homes of members and has been continued in the summer of '83. All ages participate in this program. Classes for older adults continue to meet year 'round.

The summer picnics, and Advent Clusters held in the homes during the season of Advent, have contributed to the fellowship of our church family. There is much spirited activity in our Church School, and a hope for future growth in Christian Ed.

ISABELLE MASEL, *Chairperson of Christian Education Commission*

# *A Century of Grace ..... "Our Consistory"*



## OUR CONSISTORY

First row - HAROLD JOHNSON, MARTHA LAWSON, SANDRA STRIKER

Second row - KENNETH KNITTLE, IRENE SLATER, ANNA MAE GALBREATH,  
DENNIS DURNELL

Third row - DOUGLAS McCONNELL, DOROTHY BORNE, BARBARA COOK

Fourth row - EUGENE MANN, PASTOR WAYNE BRASS

## *"Our Loving Care Committee"*



## LOVING CARE COMMITTEE

One of the purposes of the Church, the Body of Christ, is for members to care for one another as God cares for them. According to our tradition, the pastor is responsible to shepherd the congregation in such a way that all members truly experience what it is to care for others and to be cared for by others.

Sometimes people are cared for spontaneously. Sometimes it takes organization and planning for caring to happen. Our effort to form a Loving Care Committee is a way for planning and organizing ourselves so that members and friends of this fellowship will truly know our concerns for them and thereby come to experience the love of the God we worship. This committee formerly was titled the Undershepherd Program, but has functioned as the Loving Care Committee since 1982.

It is the wish and purpose of this organization that no member of Grace Church be without a contact, through cards, prayers, calls or visits, and periodic reminders of happenings taking place within the church, and within the fellowship.

Those currently involved in the program are: Co-Chairperson Eleanor Miser and Daisie Smith; Committee members: Helen Aschlman, Pauline Bleek, Dorothy Borne, Hazel Brown, Peggy Dick, Ruth Doctor, Ruth Ekelberry, Harry and Rose Frykberg, Marie Gottschall, Vera Hogg, Ethel Johnson, Delphoria Kernen, Isabelle Masel, Myrtle Miller, Dorothy Mosher, Grace Ober, Pharol Pringle, Louise Ritchie, Arlo and Evelyn Shookman, Irene Slater, Betty Talbert, Helen Smuts, Edna Snyder, Emma Snyder and Esther Stoffels.

# *A Century of Grace . . . . . "Our Guilds"*



AGNES GODFREY, PHYLLIS LONG  
RUTH DOCTOR, EDNA HEUER, ETHEL JOHNSON



Seated - PHYLLIS LONG, First row - EDNA HEUER, HELEN SIPE, PEGGY DICK, LaDELIA GORDON, MYRTLE MILLER, Row 2-DOROTHY MOSHER, OSIE JOHNSON, SERENA SLATER

## WOMEN'S GUILD

The women of Grace Church were organized as the Ladies Aid and Missionary Society in 1889, but were on the church records as early as 1884.

In 1942 we reorganized as the Women's Guild and were divided into four circles: RUTH, DORCAS, ESTHER, and MARY/MARTHA. In 1944 MARY/MARTHA merged with the three remaining. In 1953 DORCAS and ESTHER combined leaving just two circles.

HANNA CIRCLE, formed by a group of young mothers, was active between the years 1967-1979. All circles combined in 1979 under the name Trinity Circle. The circle members meet monthly for study and fellowship and are active in missionary work through the church and in the community.

We presently have two sewing groups. A quilting group meets once each month. Another group make pads used for the Visiting Nurses in their work.

The Women's Guild meets quarterly and attempts to unite all women of the church in Christian fellowship, to deepen spiritual life and promote Christian service within and outside the church.

RUTH DOCTOR, *President*



First row - RUTH DOCTOR, BETTY GOOD,  
Second row - PHYLLIS LONG



First row - DOROTHY MOSHER, MYRTLE MILLER, PEGGY DICK,  
Second row - DASIE SMITH, BETTY GOOD, PHYLLIS LONG, IRENE  
SLATER, GARNET BORNE, ETHEL JOHNSON

## THE WHITE CROSS GUILD

The White Cross Guild of Parkview Memorial Hospital is a volunteer women's association representing many church and service groups, organized for the purpose of increasing the efficiency and usefulness of hospital services and to minister to the individual needs of the sick.

Our guild was organized in 1954. There are more than thirty departments in the hospital where volunteers may actively serve. Through the years many members of our guild have volunteered their services. In addition we have made pot holders for the kitchen and tray favors for patients.

Currently, we have twenty-five members.

PHYLLIS LONG, *President*

# JOYS AND CONC

growth

Church enrollment up

choose THE Golden Rule

Worship God

right

believe  
Christ's Calvary

godly

VOLUNTEERS!

Looking Forward

To heaven

Change

The Good News ...

Forgive

**Jesus the way**

100 ANNIVERSARY in

Ties that bind

mission

GOODWILL

1983's

Charity

school prayer

morality crusade

hope

FREE!

peace

joy

food donations

this year's

AMAZING GRACE

LOOK

What's News—

Growth in '83

U.S.

business

\$2 trillion buildup

U.S. peace groups

protests

strong

recovery

1983

A TASTE OF HISTORY

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# URNS OF THE "80'S

ear downtown Taxation of SS Benefits "GOING OUT OF BUSINESS" world economy 1983  
at inflation prices Dark Future  
at Deficit Stocks plunge U.S. Dollar Drops Now at War: 1 in Every 4 Nations education crisis,  
de unemployment below 1,200 Bankruptcy tight budget recession  
es credit laid-off workers, Hard times OPEC Foreign imports oil price military spending  
ng cancer heart patient teen-age pregnancies Jobless rate 13.3%  
etter heart transplant pain of the drama of living AIDS  
es pollution toxic waste dumping Agent Orange drug users choices  
ne dioxin incurable breakdown of family fat smoking  
contamination integration refugees pornography  
. racial minorities violence NAACP LSD, PCP  
covery civil rights integration dioxin fear smog levels fresh air  
ass 83 nuclear-war threat poor crime acid rain  
demonstrations civil rights French doomsday hope  
Bad weather '82 flood suffering? In search of arms control welfare racism elderly  
floods mudslide in Utah Tornadoes Heat wave Mideast Drought  
'82 flood crime International Arms freeze arms debate  
EARTHQUAKE tidal wave victims cope  
Massive floods world hunger cheating SELF WORSHIP  
Discussed violence Jobless rate remains at 10.4% Shoplifters  
taxes MIAs Draft  
AIDS Gay lifestyle  
drug abuse  
toxic-waste  
Soviets MX missiles  
Bringing up children  
Welfare system

# *A Century of Grace . . . . . "Our Recorder, Photographer and Visitor"*



ETHEL JOHNSON

Miss Ethel Johnson is a native of Ohio, but moved to Fort Wayne when her father came here to work for International Harvester.

She received a B.A. degree from Indiana University and a B.S. degree from the University of Illinois. Forty-four working years were spent at the Fort Wayne Public Library, thirty-one of them as head of the Children's Room. Many area children remember her as the "Story Lady" because of her weekly story hour for pre-schoolers.

Since 1951 Ethel has taped the Sunday services, regularly visited the shut-ins and has taken countless photographs of church members and visitors. Her Ford Granada is kept busy transporting many elderly ladies to Sunday services and other church related activities.

She says her hobbies are reading and photography, but actually her main hobby is helping others.

## *"Our Librarian"*

ISABELLE MASEL

Isabelle Masel, Librarian of Grace Church library and teacher and Co-Director of our week-day Nursery School, continues her duties as librarian after 15 years and substitutes when needed in the Nursery School after 8 years service.

She was born in Decatur, Indiana and came to Fort Wayne after graduating from High School. She has taught in the Sunday School and Vacation Bible School throughout the years, and was Christian Education Chairperson in 1982-1983.

Isabelle has been Chairman of the present Trinity Circle of the Women's Guild for 7 years. She and her husband Charles, have two daughters and five grandchildren. This year they celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary. They have participated in "Clowns of the Cross" as Buttercup and Crazy Charlie for two and one half years.

Isabelle's service has touched hundreds of lives throughout her membership at Grace Church.



ISABELLE MASEL

# *A Century of Grace . . . . . "Our Nursery School"*



Arlene Knittle (on left) *Director of Administration*  
Ann Colwell (on right) *Director of Curriculum*

## GRACE NURSERY SCHOOL

Early in 1969 a committee was appointed by the Consistory to investigate the possibility of having a week-day nursery school at Grace Church. In March of that year, the committee reported that a school would be feasible and that it appeared there was a need for this ministry in our vicinity. The Consistory voted for a nursery school to begin in the fall of 1969.

Through the work of the committee, led by Gloria Hebermehl and Nancy Pedersen, doors were opened to our first class on September 8, 1969, a group of thirteen four-year-old children attending three mornings a week through May, 1970.

In September of 1972 a two-session per week class for Three's was offered and was quickly filled. By 1976 our enrollment totaled 50 children, ages 3 through 5yrs.

That summer ceiling lights were installed in the room under the sanctuary and space developed, with funds from an individual donor and a contribution from the Youth Group, for use as a playroom and youth lounge. Staff and members assisted a student artist in painting the walls. Playroom time continues to be a favorite school activity.

By our tenth year our enrollment was up to 62 children. The staff consisted of two co-directors, a treasurer and four teachers.

In the fall of 1982, a pre-kindergarten program was established. Twenty-four children were enrolled in the two classes, each holding four sessions per week. The children enjoy art, music, dramatics, cooking, swimming, and gymnastics in addition to stories, games field trips and other activities.

The 1983-1984 term total enrollment is 88 children with a staff of eight. As we conclude our fourteenth year we will have served 750 children. We are pleased that some families have chosen to send as many as three and four children to our school. We pray that God will continue to bless our efforts to serve children and families in our community.

*Ann Colwell*

# *A Century of Grace . . . “Our Shut-Ins” and “Our Visitors”*

Our Visitors — *left to right:* ELEANOR MISER, RUTH DOCTOR, GARNET BORNE, DELPHIA KERNEN, EDNA SNYDER, ETHEL JOHNSON  
SEATED: MARTHA WEDLER



ADA BAUMGARTNER

MAUDE & RAY SINK



LORETTA BERNHARDT

WALTER "Bill" KOONTZ

ADOLPH PENTZ

GEORGE SEBOLD



MYRL GOTTSCHALL

ED PAFF

THERESA SCHWARZ

FRANK SMITH

# *A Century of Grace . . . . . "Our Mission"*



Father - OUNHEUANE, Mother - SEUTH  
Baby - AT,  
Son - AETH, Daughter - NOY

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity, a mission project inaugurated by Millard Fuller for the purpose of building houses for the poor people of the world, needed money for houses in Zaire, Africa. Grace members elected to participate in this worthy cause. Several projects helped toward our goal of \$2,000, which was the amount specified for one house. We met the challenge, and there is now a house in Zaire, Africa which could be called "Grace" house.

## REFUGEE FAMILY

Pictured is the Laotian refugee family sponsored by Grace, Peace, and Salem United Churches of Christ in 1982. The family arrived during a snow storm in February. A task force under the direction of Ann Colwell contributed many hours to help them become acclimated to our community and become Americanized. We bid them farewell in November when they left to join relatives in California.



MILLARD FULLER



## PROJECT 25 and FOOD PANTRY

During 1983 Grace participated in Project 25 and the neighborhood Food Pantry programs sponsored by the Associated Churches of Fort Wayne.

Project 25 was the contribution of 25 cents per Sunday per member to help persons in need, while the Food Pantry supplied food to the unemployed. These projects filled a local need during difficult times.

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Gessinger Memorial Scholarship Fund for members of Grace was established in 1979 with a bequest from the estate of Albert Gessinger. The fund provides financial help to college and seminary students in need of assistance.

# *A Century of Grace . . . . . "Our Special Interest Groups"*



### GRACE RETIRED COUPLES

With the increasing number of retired couples in our membership a social group was organized in October of 1981 and named "Grace Retired Couples". They meet at the church once each month during the winter months for a carry-in luncheon. Their afternoon programs have included speakers, films, games, and trips to near-by points of interest.



### GRACE SINGLES

The newest group to be formed at Grace Church is "Grace Singles", organized in the summer of 1983. All single members of the church are eligible and welcome. They meet monthly for a fellowship meal and pre-arranged social activity.

# *A Century of Grace . . . . . "Our Special People"*



LARRY HOLDERBAUM,  
*Lay Ministry Student*

## *"Our Lay Minister"*

### **LAY MINISTRY STUDENT**

Larry Holderbaum, Grace Church member, is a student of the U.C.C. Lay Ministry Academic Course and expects to graduate in August, 1984. His wife, Pat, and daughters, Angie and Amy, are actively involved in the program of the church.

Larry is an employee of Northern Indiana Public Service Company and says he is waiting to see how his studies can be used in the future.

## *"Our Missionary"*

### **OUR MISSIONARY**

#### **RICK HABERKAMP - OUR MISSIONARY**

In 1971, Rick came from his home in New Knoxville, Ohio, and enrolled in a two year course at Fort Wayne Bible College. He attended Grace Church and taught our Junior High Class in Sunday School. He was ordained a Missionary in his home Church in 1973. He then spent one year at "team" in Wheaton, Illinois. He left for France to study the French language, this being the language spoken in Chad, Africa, where he felt God had called him to serve. He went to Chad, but after two and one half years was returned on furlough because of political uprising there. While in the United States, he married Monica, and they went back to France, where she could study French. They also did Missionary work there. In March, 1983, little Sarah arrived. In July 1983, they returned to Chad where they are now serving the Lord.

Our Sunday School contributes to their support.

*Edna Snyder*



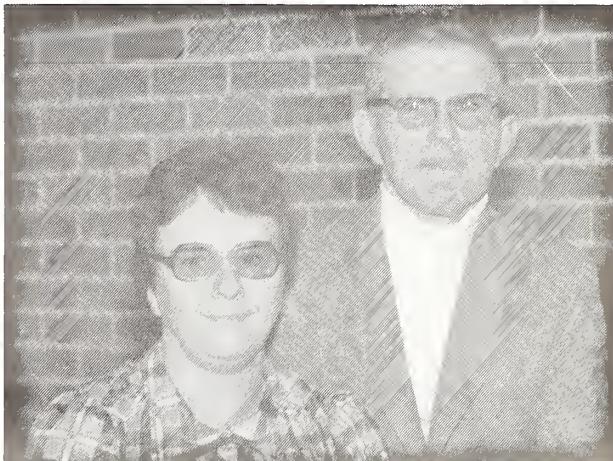
RICK HABERKAMP,  
*Missionary*

## *"Our Secretary"*



ARTEMESIA GUILLOT, *Church Secretary*

## *"Our Custodians"*



JOYCE AND LLOYD HAMBROCK *Church Custodians*

# A Century of Grace . . . . . "Our Celebration"

## A CENTURY OF GRACE 1883-1983

The first one hundred years of our church nearly covers the twentieth century — a century in which our Lord God bestowed on man the knowledge to create the greatest progress in the fulfillment of the dreams of peoples of the world. The past century's technological revolution has brought mankind the automobile, airplane, radio, telephone, motion pictures and television, computers, nuclear development, the atom bomb and exploration of space. There were great advances in medicine, including the elimination of polio and control over other childhood diseases through vaccination and immunization. Hundreds of lives have been extended through the use of the artificial kidney machine, heart by-pass surgery and organ transplants.

There are 16 years left in this century — possibly time enough to find the solution to current concerns besetting us. Will we find the answer to - pollution, flood control, inflation and depression, unemployment, nuclear disarmament, declining church attendance, drug and alcohol abuse, curing man of arthritis, cancer and heart disease, and the many afflictions of mankind?

William Good



Centennial Chairperson Gloria Hebermehl,  
and husband "Bill"



Pictured: *Members of the Centennial Committee*  
CRIS COLWELL OSIE JOHNSON  
BARBARA COOK KENNETH KNITTLE  
RUTH DOCTOR PHYLLIS LONG  
AGNES GODFREY RUSSELL LONG  
BETTY GOOD CHARLES MASEL  
WILLIAM GOOD ISABELLE MASEL  
GLORIA HEBERMELH PHAROL PRINGLE  
FLOYD JOHNSON BEULAH STEPHENS  
ETHEL JOHNSON JAMES STEPHENS  
Not pictured: WILLIAM HEBERMELH  
DOROTHY BORNE, PAT HOLDERBAUM and  
DOUGLAS McCONNELL

## "Our Centennial Hymn"

### THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION

*The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
She is His new creation by water and the Word:  
From heav'n He came and sought her to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.  
  
Elect from every nation, yet one o're all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.*

*Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war.  
She waits the consumation of peace forevermore;  
Till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.  
  
Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:  
O happy ones and holy! Lord give us grace that we,  
Like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with Thee.*

1883

A black and white collage of various photographs from a centennial celebration in 1983. The collage includes images of people at a fair or exhibition, a woman in a historical dress, a banner with the year '1983', a large circular emblem with the word 'CENTENIAL' and the year '1983', a woman in a uniform, a group of people at a table, and a woman in a hat. A large diagonal banner across the bottom left reads 'CENTENNIAL' in bold, capital letters.





# *A Century of Grace . . . . . “Our Support Group”*

**Notes from the Past** were articles in church news-letters written by Agnes Godfrey.

Co-Chairmen for the **Quilted Banner** were Isabelle Masel and Deanna Mann.

Those who participated in the project:

Linda Berwert	Betty Good	Dianne McConnell
Chris Colwell	LaDelia Gordon	Karen McConnell
Sue Conner	Osie Johnson	Judy Schnitker
Ruth Doctor	Arlene Knittle	Helen Sipe
Lola Fox	Laurie Knittle	Irene Slater
Agnes Godfrey	Phyllis Long	Dasie Smith

Chairperson for the **Creative Arts Project** was Ethel Johnson. Those who participated were:

Amanda Borne	Larry Holderbaum	Dianne McConnell
Ben Brass	Ethel Johnson	Lori Rigby
Amy Evans	Ken Knittle	Louise Ritchie
Anita Fisher	MacLain Lobdell	Helen Smuts
Larry Gilbert	Charles Masel	Beulah Stephens
Amy Holderbaum	Isabelle Masel	Junior Dept. S.S. Class

The following youth and their families worked together to submit **A Large Hooked Banner**:

Erika Brass	Chris Colwell	Angie Holderbaum
Laurie Knittle	Brian Schnitker	

Co-Chairmen for the **Centennial Plantings** were Gloria Hebermehl and Milton Aschliman.

The plantings were paid for by the following:

Velma Arnold	Agnes Godfrey	Pharol Pringle
Helen/Milton Aschliman	Beverly Gzybowski	Irene Slater
Irene/Harold Blust	Cecile/J. Wilbur Haley	Helen Smuts
Hazel Brown	Gloria/William Hebermehl	Leone Striker
Barbara/Richard Cook	Phyllis Long	Sandra Striker
Ann/Paul Dixon	Isabelle/Charles Masel	Grace Nursery School
Rose/Harry Frykberg	Eleanor Pohler	Heidelberg-Zwingli Class
	Triple T Class	

**Centennial Cake** for Grace/Crossroad Worship and Picnic in the park was made by Dorothy Borne.

Co-Chairmen for the **3-Rivers Parade Centennial Float** were Beulah and Jim Stephens.

Co-workers were Don Trout, Doug McConnell, Kenneth Knittle, Charles Masel and approximately 75 members of the church who worked countless hours building the float. Beverly and Richard Gzybowski furnished space in their garage to house and build the float. Costumes were made by Renee Brass, Arlene Knittle and Judy Schnitker. Construction of the banner, which preceded the float, was in charge of LaDelia Gordon.

Chairperson for **The Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social** was Ann Dixon.

The Sept. 23 combined choirs were under the direction of Greg Otis with Douglas Speakman, *organist*.

Chairperson of **“Weddings: Remembered and Renewed”** was Dorothy Borne.

The pageant, **“This Is Your Life, Grace Church”** was written by Isabelle Masel with Gloria and William Hebermehl in charge of production.

Historical research was provided by Velma Arnold, Betty Good, LaDelia Gordon, Gloria Hebermehl, Ethel Johnson and Alice Meyer

Kenneth Knittle planned, organized and set up the displays of clothing representing each decade of the century. Fund raising project chairpersons were:

Osie/Floyd Johnson	Phyllis Long	Barbara Cook	Ruth Doctor
Centennial Plates	Centennial Pens	Centennial Note Paper	W. G. Cook Books

Memorabilia displays were organized by Agnes Godfrey, Ethel Johnson, Isabelle Masel, Gloria Hebermehl and Alice Meyer.

*The Centennial Register was supervised by the members of the TTT Class.*

**The Centennial Booklet** was edited by Gloria and William Hebermehl.

Snapshots were provided by Ethel Johnson and William Hebermehl.

Centerfold composed by Edward Miller & William Hebermehl.

**Mailings**, responsible for mailings, Phyllis / Russell Long

# *A Century of Grace . . . . . “Our Closing Thoughts”*

*On the Occasion of the 100th Anniversary of Grace United Church of Christ*

*1883 - 1983*

*Grace Church has stood a hundred years.*

*And much to her we owe,  
In joy and praises to our Lord,  
It is to her we go.*

*She comforts us in sadness,  
She nurtures us in growth,  
Our spirit is uplifted  
And we give to her our oath.*

*To attend, support, and love each other  
We know it is our duty,  
Our prayers to God for all He gives  
Make life a thing of beauty.*

*Our Pastor leads and guides us,  
There are classes to attend,  
If your dear heart is hurting,  
You'll soon be on the mend.*

*Grace has her choir, that jolly set,  
And how they love to sing,  
They are joyful when you join them  
in giving honor to the King!*

*A hundred years, yes, can it be?  
May it only be the start,  
Grace shall surely always be here  
If you give to her your heart.*

*Helen Smuts*



**“Thank You” to the members who contributed financially  
to the support of our centennial celebration, and to the following  
companies for their support of this booklet:**

**Indiana and Michigan Electric Co.  
Northern Indiana Public Service Co.  
United Church Envelope., Inc.**

**And to the TTT Class and the Women’s Guild**

